

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197548

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, SP, MARR, MASS, OVIP (GUTIERREZ MELLADO, MANUEL)

SUBJECT: GUTIERREZ MELLADO'S CALLS ON DEP SEC CHRISTOPHER
AND UNDER SEC BENSON

1. SPANISH MINISTER OF DEFENSE GUTIERREZ MELLADO STRESSED
THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN CALLS AUGUST 2 ON DEP SEC
CHRISTOPHER AND UNDER SEC BENSON:

(A) THE PREVIOUS OBSTACLES TO INTENSIFIED US-SPANISH
SECURITY RELATIONS HAD BEEN ELIMINATED BY THE ADVENT OF
DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN;

(B) SPAIN'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US AND SPECIFIC
DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH THE WEST JUSTIFIED EXEMPTION FROM
PD-13 ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINTS;

(C) THE REAL VALUE OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SPAIN HAD
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DROPPED PRECIPATELY SINCE 1953 AND THE PRESENT AMOUNT WAS
OF LITTLE REAL INTEREST TO SPAIN;

(D) US USE OF FACILITIES IN SPAIN AND ITS AIR/LAND/SEA
SPACE REMAINS CONSTANT WHILE VALUE OF US ASSISTANCE HAS
DROPPED;

(E) WITH EACH MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO MEET THE COMMON THREAT, US-SPANISH DEFENSE RELATIONS ARE NOT A MERE QUOTE BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT UNQUOTE BUT THE SPANISH DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION COINCIDES WITH ECONOMIC CRISIS AND SPAIN NEEDS MORE ASSISTANCE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE MODERNIZATION OF ITS ARMED FORCES;

(F) WE NEED IMAGINATION TO WORK OUT SOLUTIONS WHICH WILL BE IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST; AND

(G) HE FAVORS SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO BUT THIS IS NOT AN IMMEDIATE QUESTION AND IS ONE BEYOND HIS RESPONSIBILITIES.

2. IN RESPONSE, THE DEPUTY AND UNDER SECRETARY EMPHASIZED:

(A) PD-13 APPLIES TO SPAIN BUT THE PRESIDENT COULD AUTHORIZE REASONABLE EXCEPTIONS TO PD-13 RESTRAINTS; SPAIN SHOULD COME FORWARD WITH REQUESTS PER OUR 1976 TREATY;

(B) THE RAVAGES OF INFLATION ARE VERY REAL AND TROUBLING BUT WE CANNOT BE HOPEFUL REGARDING INCREASED ASSISTANCE;

(C) WE WILL WORK HARD AND WITH IMAGINATION TO IMPROVE OUR PROCEDURES TO REDUCE DELAYS AND TO SEEK WAYS TO BE HELPFUL;
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(D) WE FAVOR NATO ENTRY FOR SPAIN BUT IT IS A MATTER FOR SPAIN TO DECIDE;

(E) OUR RELATIONS ARE BASICALLY SOUND AND ARE IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST; WE DO NOT APPROACH THEM AS A BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT.

3. FULL MEMCONS BEING POUCHED. VANCE

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